Reviewer's report

Title: Pattern and determinants of hospitalization during heat waves: an ecologic study

Version: 4 Date: 21 May 2007

Reviewer: Alistair W Stewart

Reviewer's report:

General

The responses of the authors to my earlier comments have been answered satisfactorily.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The first sentence of the second paragraph of the results has the figures reversed - HD is figure 1 and RD is figure 2.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

There are a number of places where the English could be improved.
Abstract; Results; first sentence; "... with each more day of ..." should be "... with each additional day of ...".
Abstract; Results; The words 'equally peaked' are ambiguous in this situation. Are the diseases equal or the times equal or both. A possible alternative wording could be "Hospital admissions for HD peaked equally at the first heatwave (early June) and the last heatwave (August) in 2004 as did RD." The authors do not have to use my wording but they must make the meaning clear. These words are also used in the conclusion and I suggest they be changed to peaked equally there.
Background; heath should be spelt heat.
Background; " ... rates of hospital admission than subsequent heatwaves, even IF they are longer ..." the 'if' needs adding.
Background; The sentence starting "It should be examined whether a minimum ..." needs to be rewritten. One can work out what is meant but the english is not good.
Results; Two sentncestart "At ... analysis ...". The word 'At' could be replaced by 'In the". Even then the first sentence using this start still needs improvement.
Discussion; last sentence concurrently is spelt as concurrently.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'